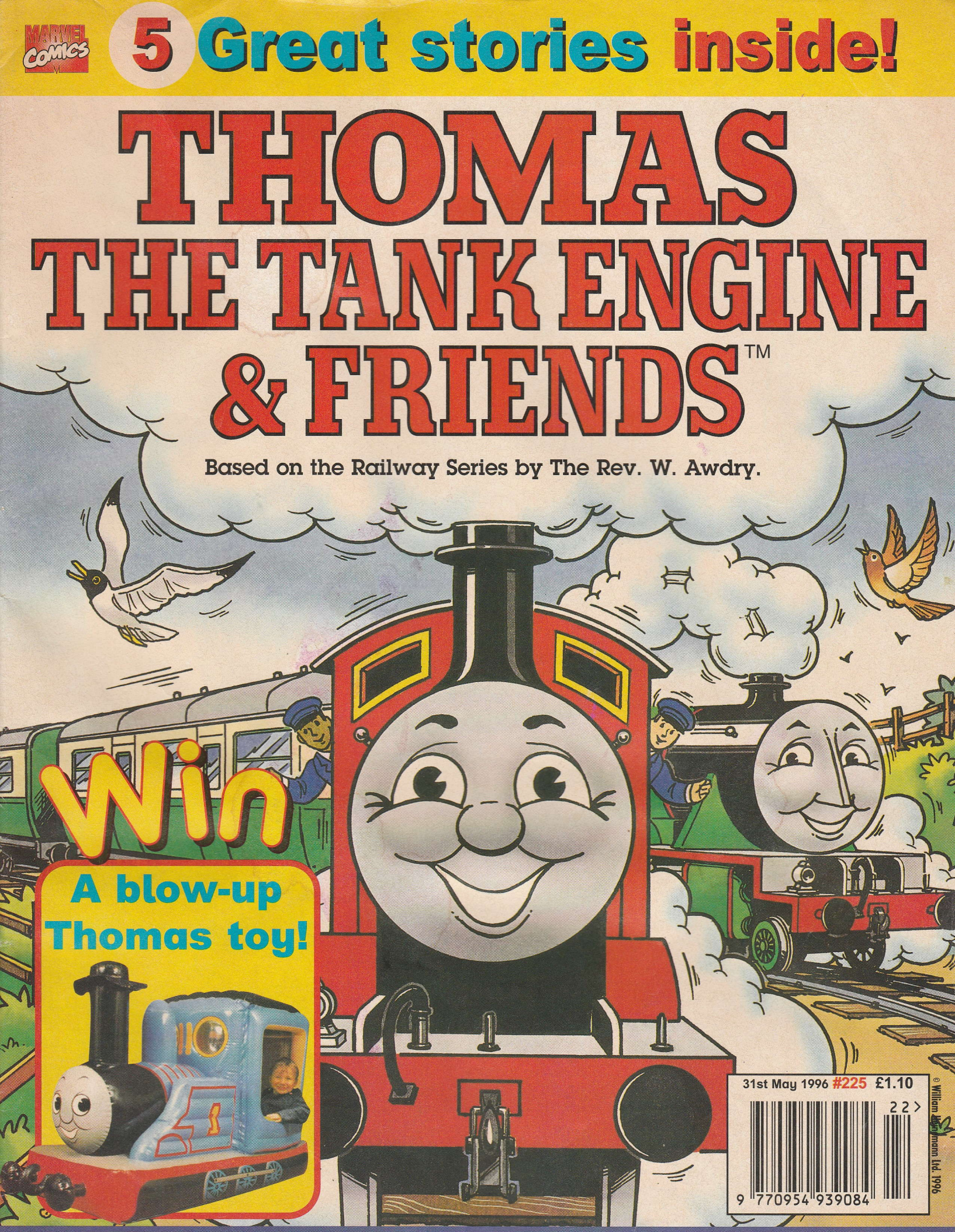
MARVEL COMICS

5 Great stories inside!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Win

A blow-up Thomas toy!

31st May 1996 #225 £1.10

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Prizes, puzzles and colouring fun!

Hello, everybody!

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Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

.....

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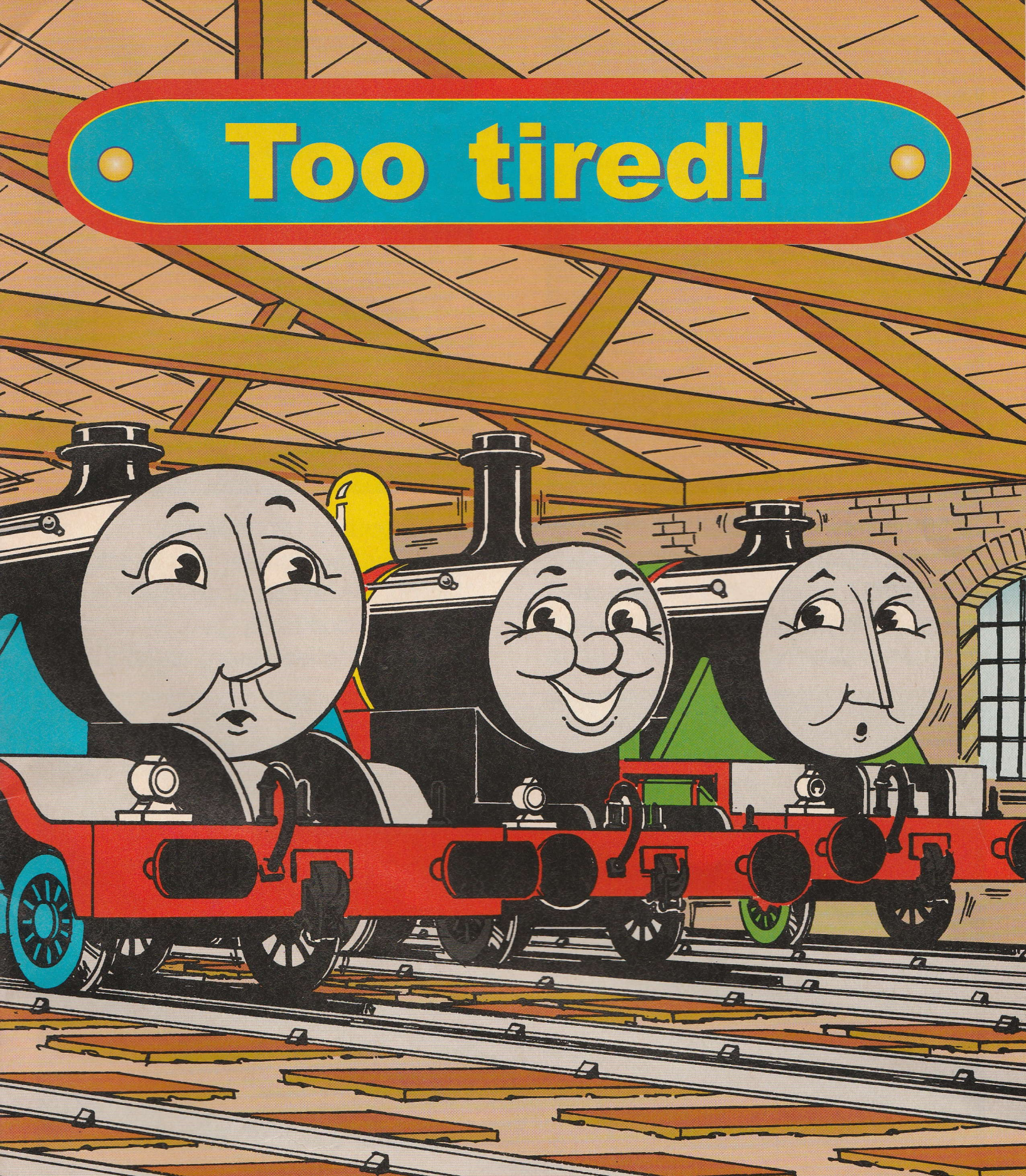
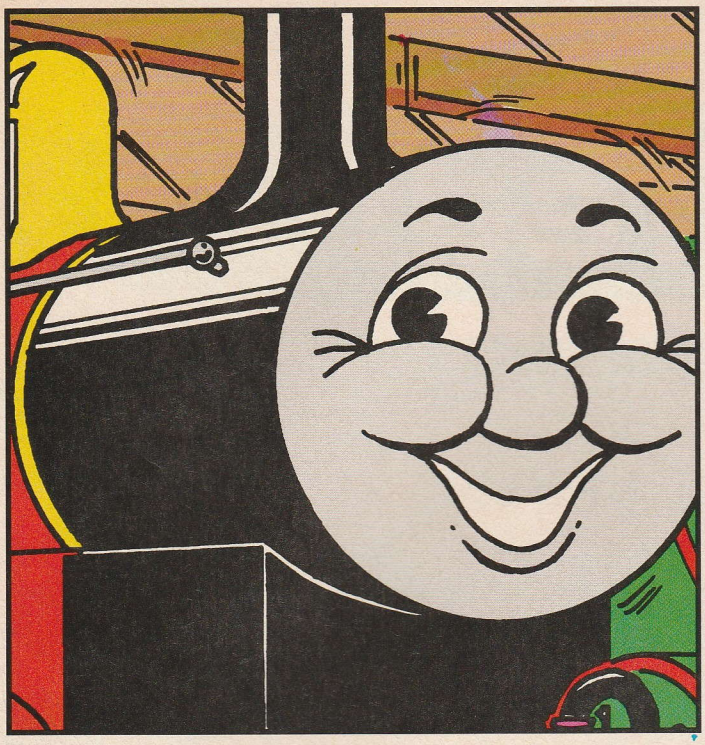
Too tired!

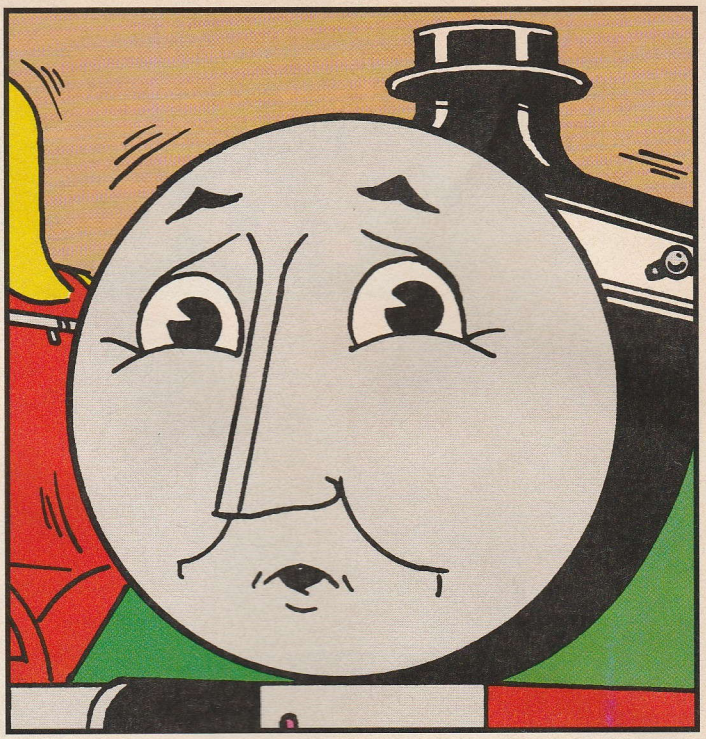


1. One Friday morning, in the engine shed, Gordon announced he was going to the Works to have a service. "I won't be pulling the Express again until after the weekend," he said.

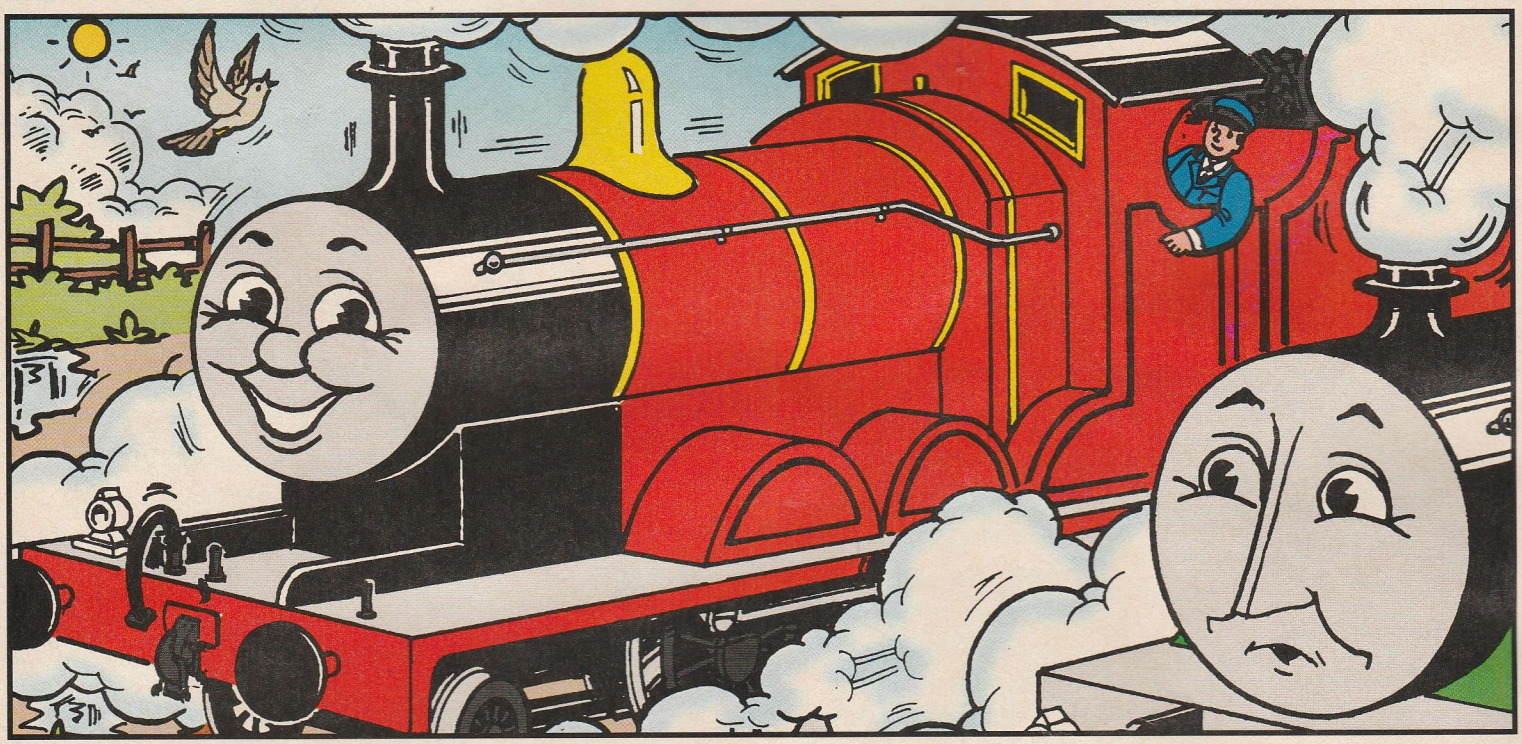
2. "I wonder who will take your place?" said Henry. "If it's me, I do hope I can keep perfect time. It's a very important job." Poor Henry felt more and more anxious.



3. "Stop fretting," snorted James. "The Fat Controller is sure to ask me to take the Express while Gordon is away. I'm such a fine engine, with my red paint and shiny dome."

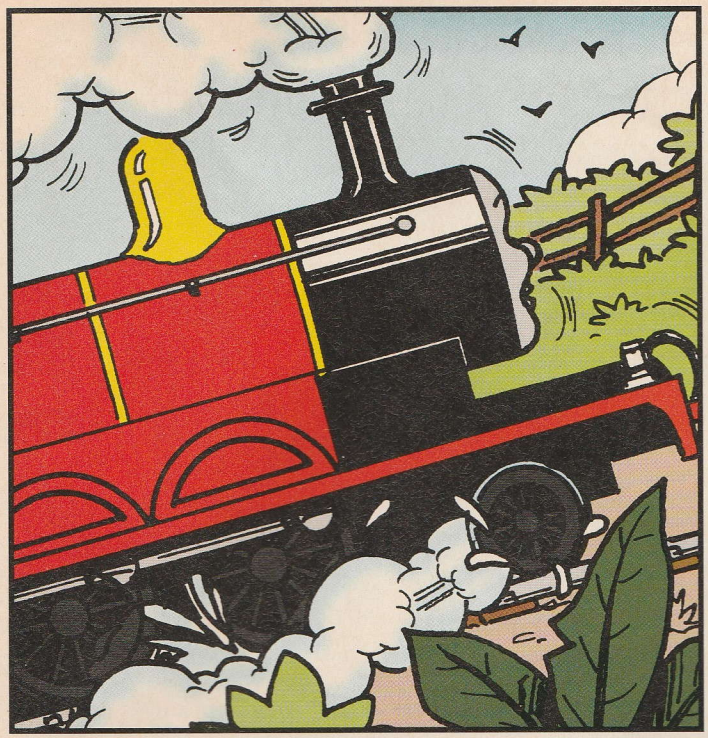


4. "Important tasks don't bother me at all," added James, confidently. "I'm not a nervous engine like you, Henry." "I can't help getting worried," replied Henry, unhappily.

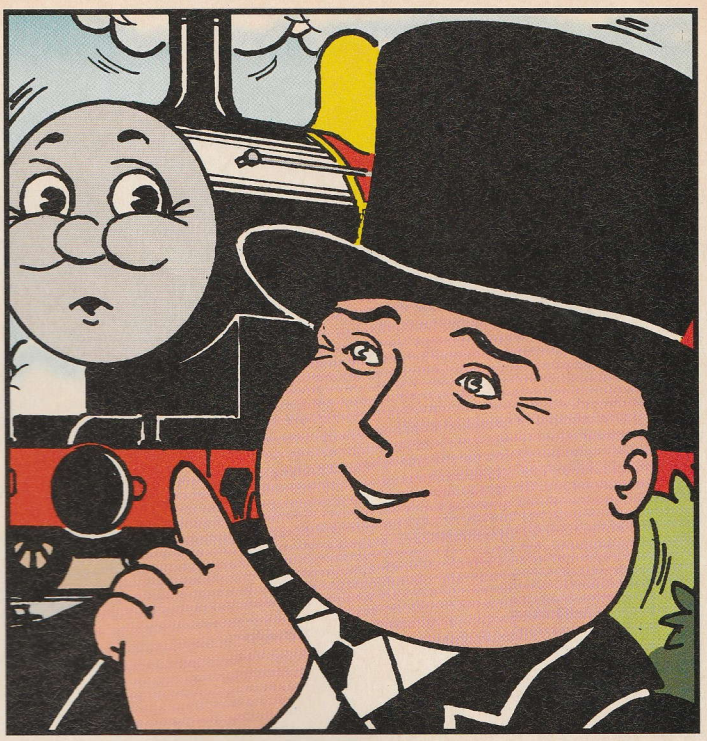


5. Sure enough, James was soon waiting in the Main Station yard while Percy fetched all the Express coaches for him. "What did I tell you, Henry?" sniffed James, proudly.

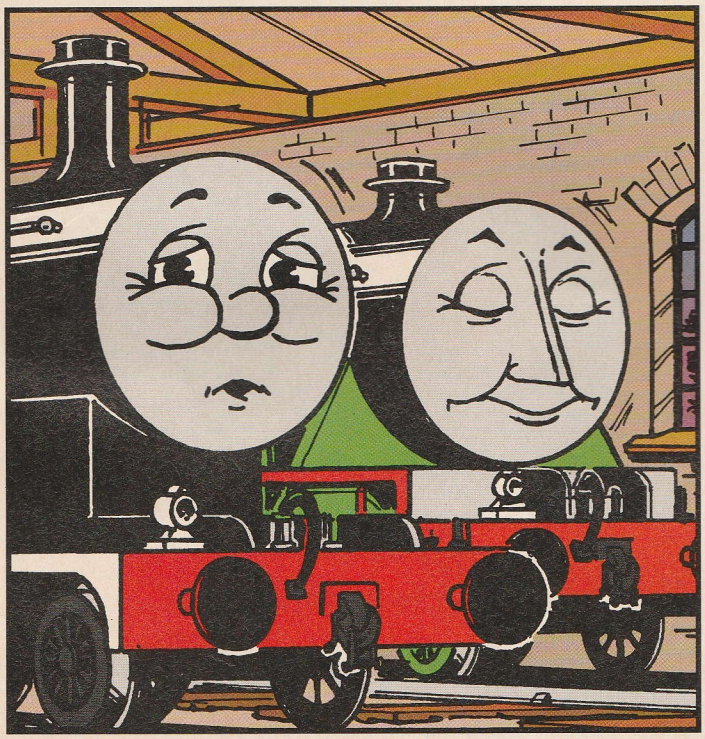
6. Before long, he was coupled to the coaches. Then James huff-puff-puffed grandly on his way. "Pheeep! The Fat Controller knows I'm a Really Useful Engine!" James boasted to Henry.



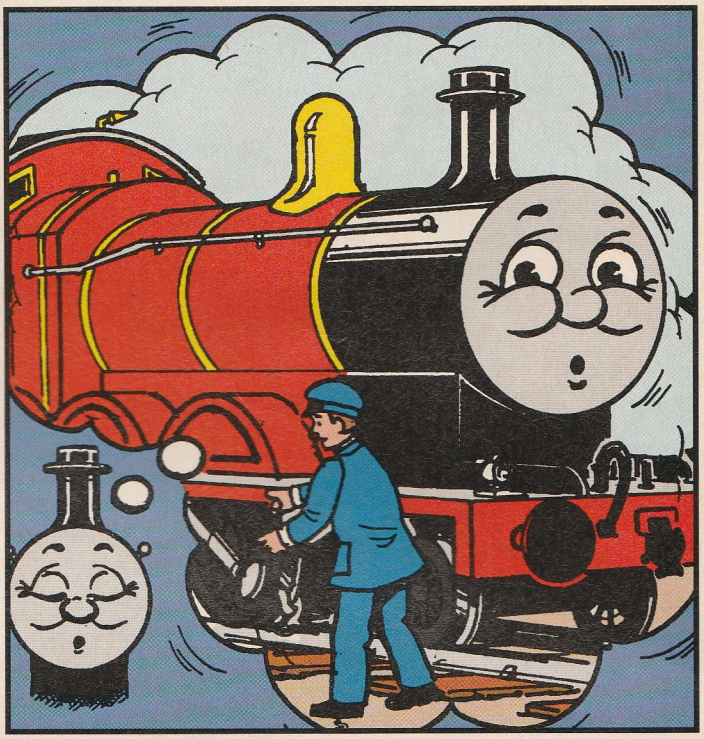
7. It had rained heavily overnight. Now the clouds were passing. But the rails were wet and greasy. As James steamed up Gordon's Hill, his wheels kept on slipping and he lost time.



8. James returned late to the Main Station. "I'm sure it won't happen tomorrow," called Henry, kindly. "It shouldn't do," the Fat Controller added. Only James heard him.

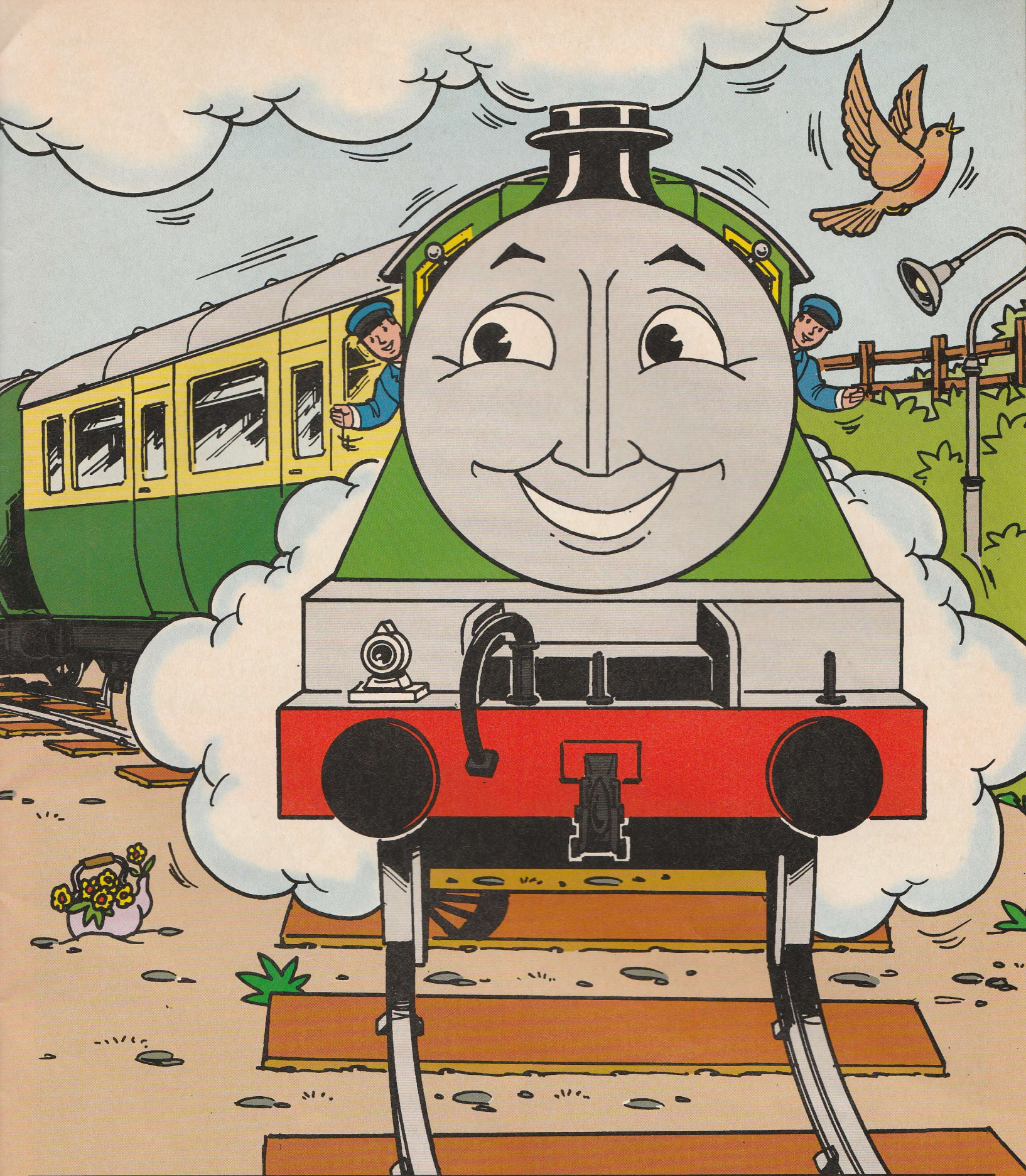


9. "I wonder what he meant?" thought James, uneasily. "That was a funny thing to say." James hardly slept all night for thinking of it. He was worried about being late again.



10. At last, James dozed off, but he had troubled dreams. He imagined all sorts of delays while pulling the Express. Next morning, James could hardly keep his eyes open.

11. Yawning, James followed Henry into the Main Station yard. It was a bright, sunny day. Then the Fat Controller arrived. "You look exhausted, James," he said. "There'll be no more trouble with slipping wheels. The weather forecast said it would be fine and dry." "So that's what you meant!" puffed James. "I worried all night!"

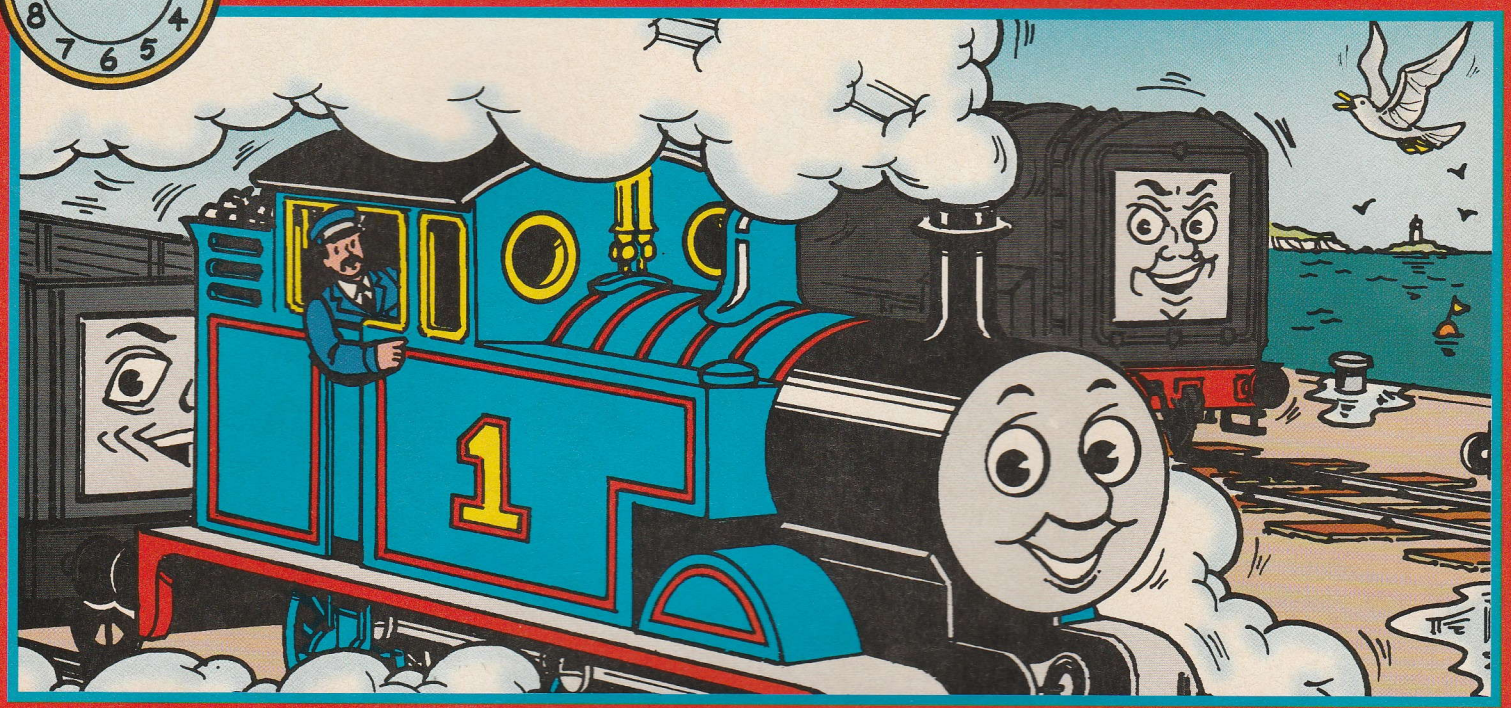


12. “A tired engine can’t pull the Express,” said the Fat Controller. He turned to Henry. “You’d better take it today.” Henry did not mind a bit now because he had slept very well. “I didn’t think James would worry about the Express,” the Fat Controller went on. “He must try to be more relaxed, like you, Henry.” How James sulked as Henry happily set off!

PEEP! PEEP! THE END!

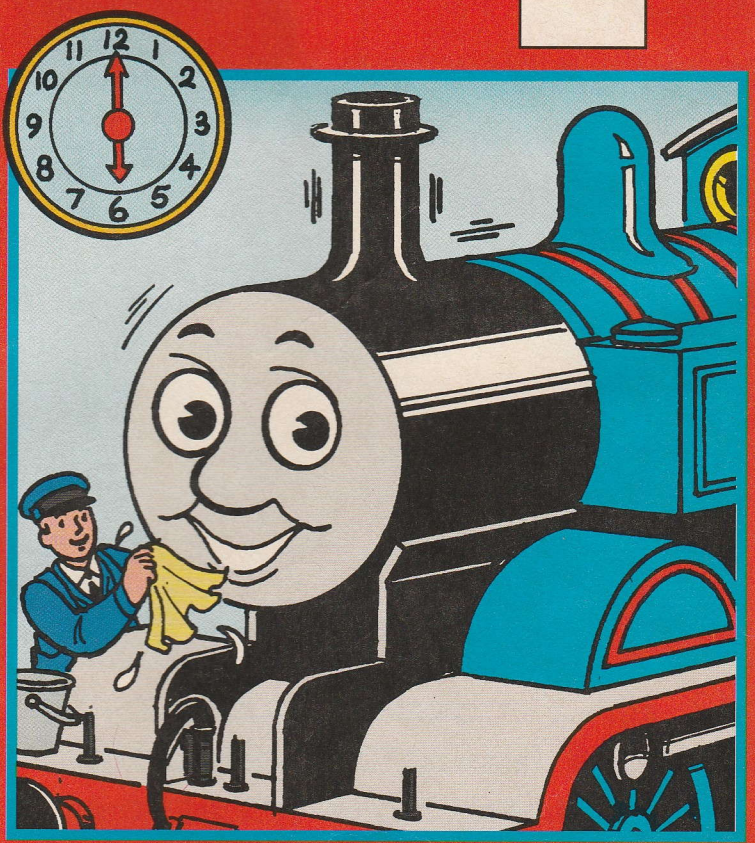
Thomas' ti

Can you put these pictures in their right order to tell a story about Thomas' day? Write the number in the box below.



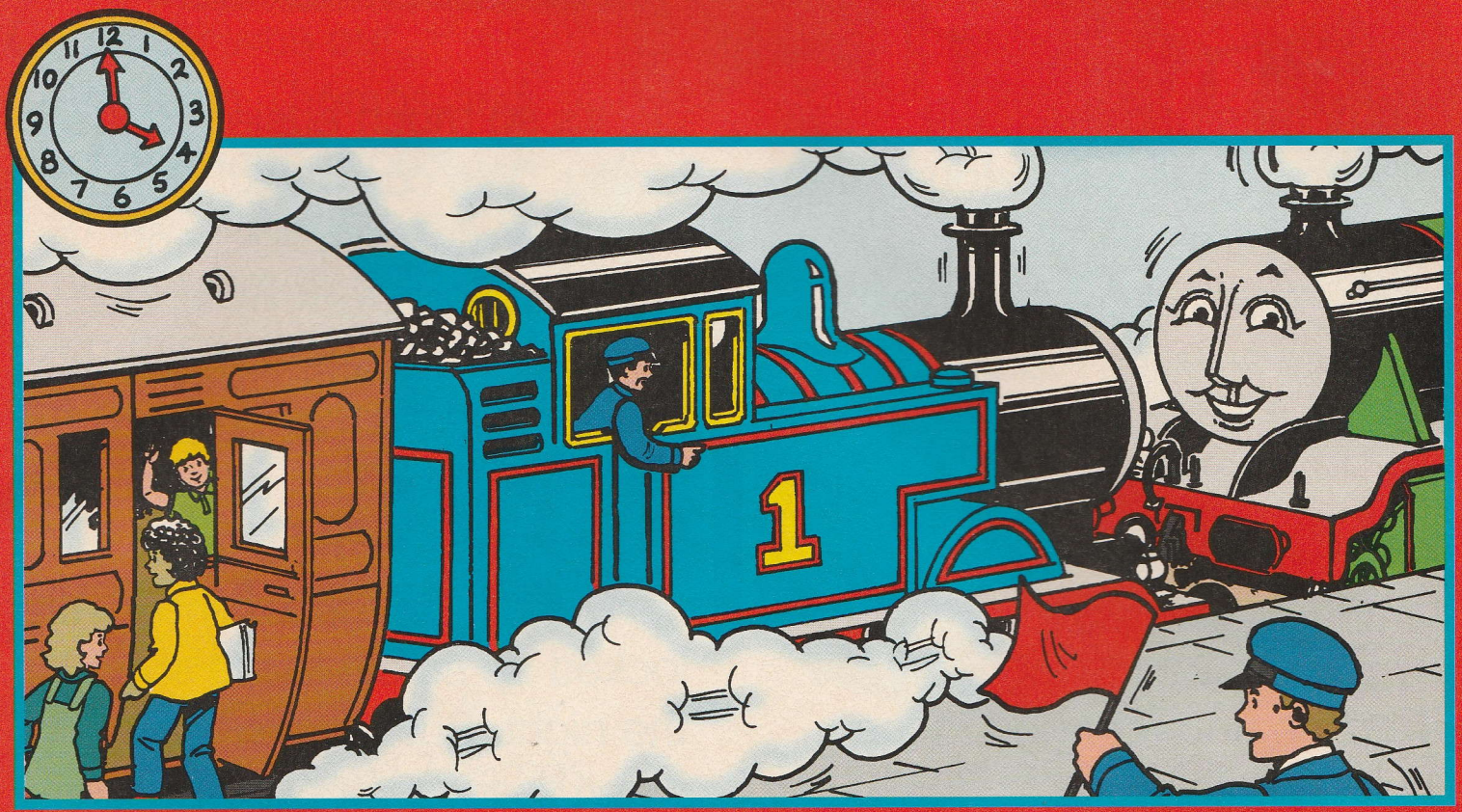
Thomas is too busy working to listen to Diesel's teasing!

The birds are singing and it's going to be a lovely day!

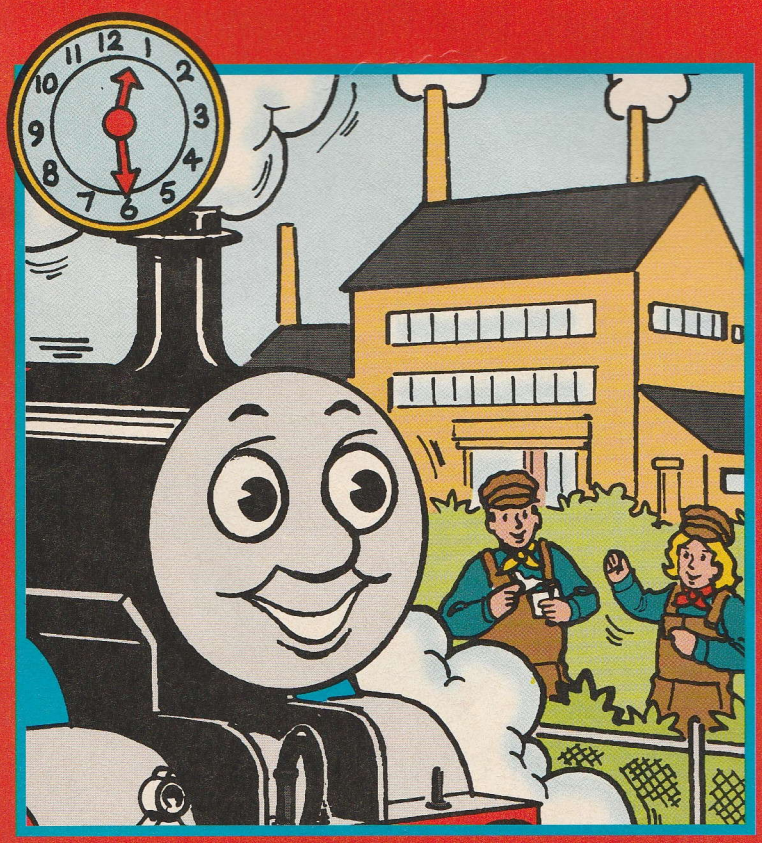


Thomas' driver cleans the soot off his paintwork.

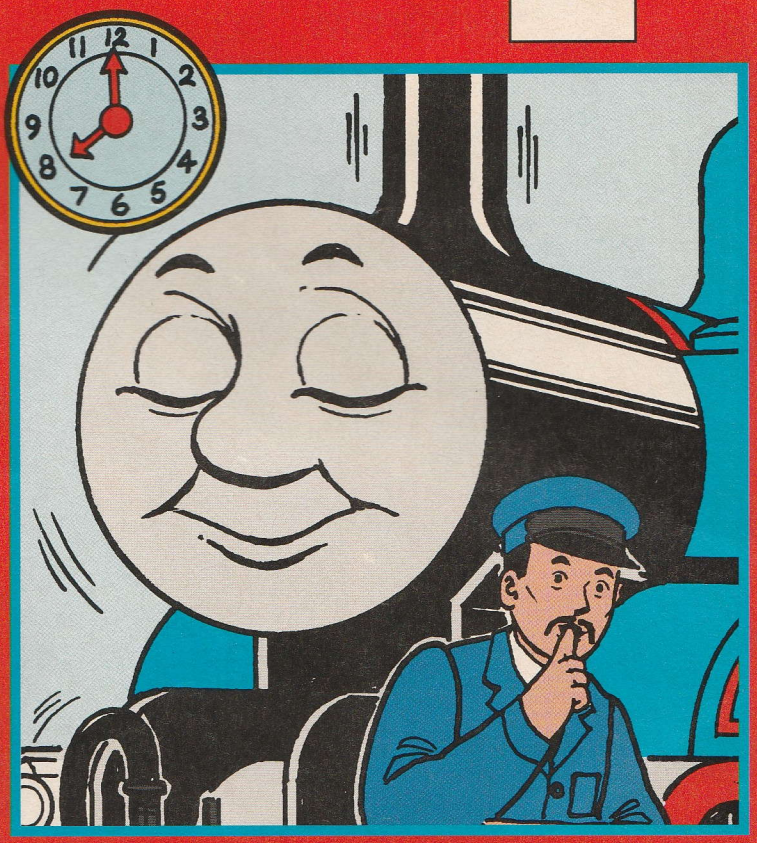
me jumble!



Thomas picks the school children up from the station.



Thomas passes factory workers having a break.



Thomas is tired. He feels himself falling asleep.

Sunday schedule!

Thomas and the other engines like Sundays. They do not have to deliver passengers to work or carry much freight, as factories and offices are closed. There are still some tasks for the engines to do, but not as many as usual.

One Saturday night, all the engines had returned to the Main Station Yard.

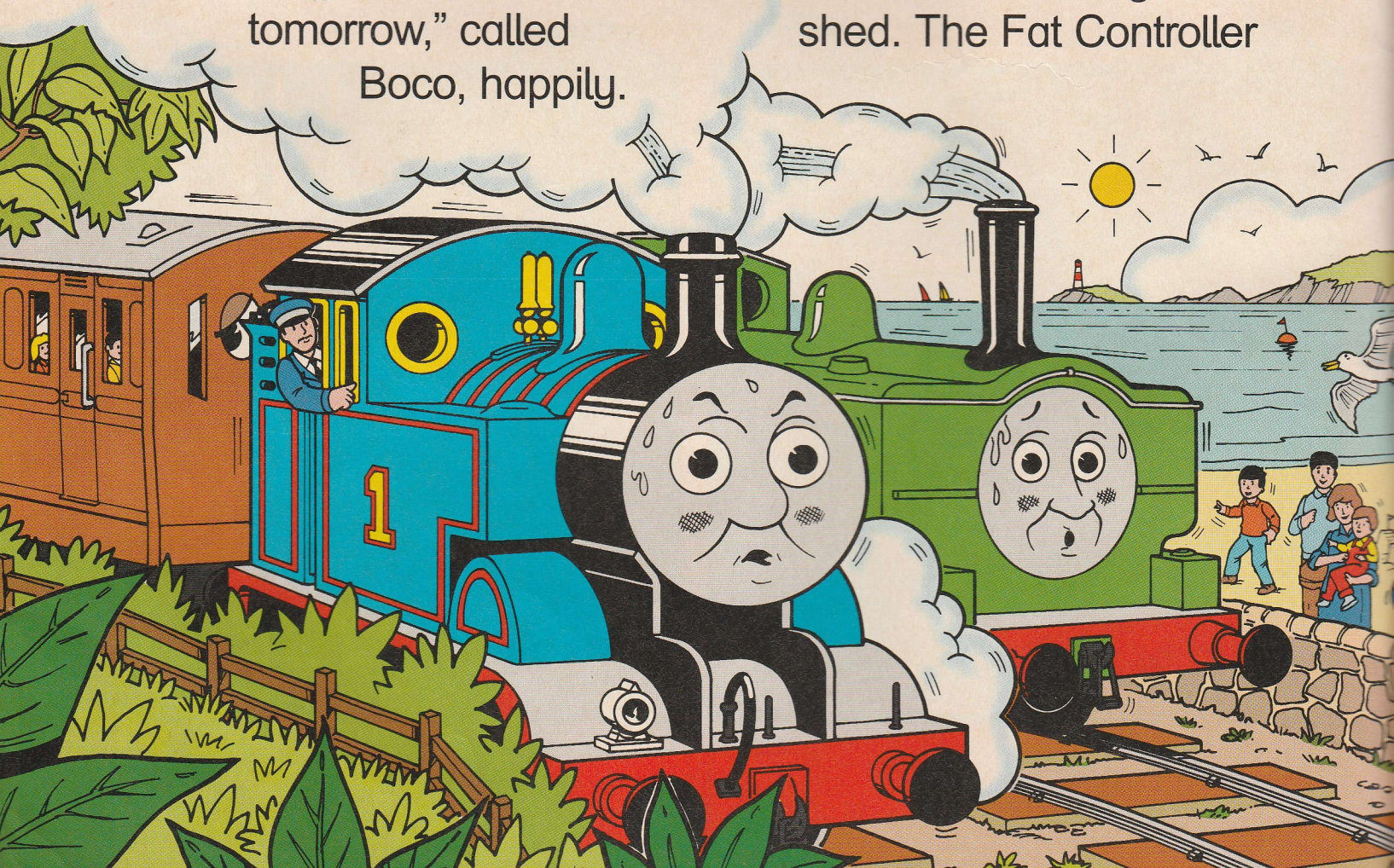
"Sunday schedule tomorrow," called Boco, happily.

"It's so much easier," added Daisy. "We can relax!"

The Fat Controller sent Thomas and Duck off to the Works. They were to be serviced in the morning.

"The others can do your few jobs tomorrow," he said.

The rest of the engines were locked up safely in the shed for the night. But the next day, when their drivers arrived, no one could find the keys to the shed. The Fat Controller



was having a restful day, too. He was still at home. The Stationmaster rang him to ask about the keys but the Fat Controller was out.

"I'll fetch Thomas and Duck from the Works," said the Stationmaster. "They'll have to do everything until the keys are found."

When Thomas and Duck heard, they were shocked. "It's just not fair!" fumed Duck.

"We'll be rushed off our wheels!" grumbled Thomas.

He was right. Although there was not much work for all the engines, it was lots for just two. Thomas and Duck did not stop all day. Railway gangers had to be taken around the railway to check the track. There were trucks to shunt, coal to fetch and passengers to go to the beach and park.

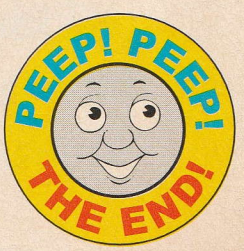
As both engines raced to and fro, the Fat Controller finally arrived at the Main Station. The keys to the shed had been locked in his office, by mistake.

It was tea-time when Thomas and Duck returned. "There's nothing else to do, thanks to them," said the Fat Controller.

So the other engines had an even easier Sunday than usual. But Thomas and Duck were very tired.

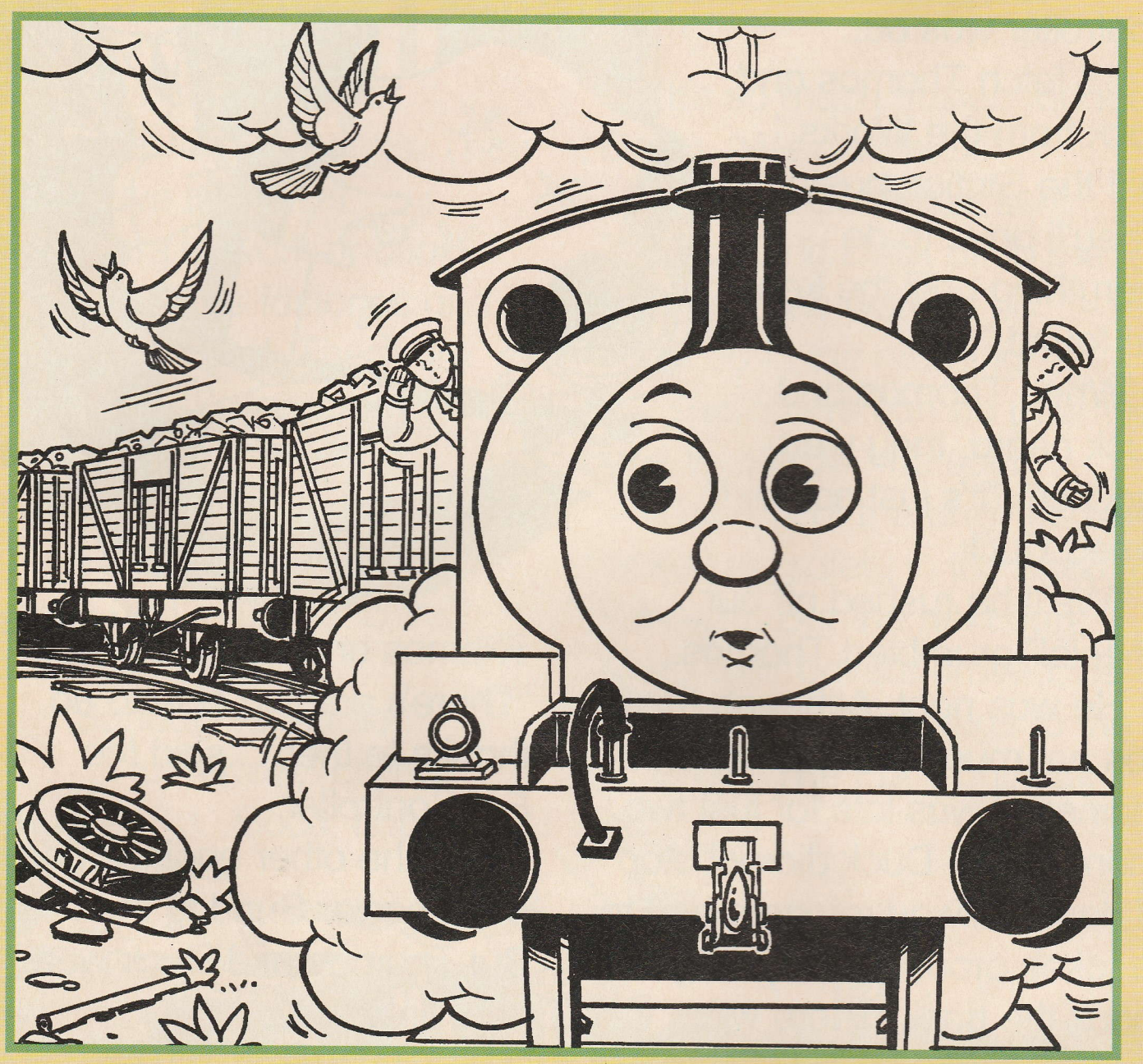
Next morning, all the engines rolled into the station yard. "Another busy Monday," called Gordon.

"I'm glad," called Duck. "It can't be busier than our Sunday schedule!" agreed Thomas.



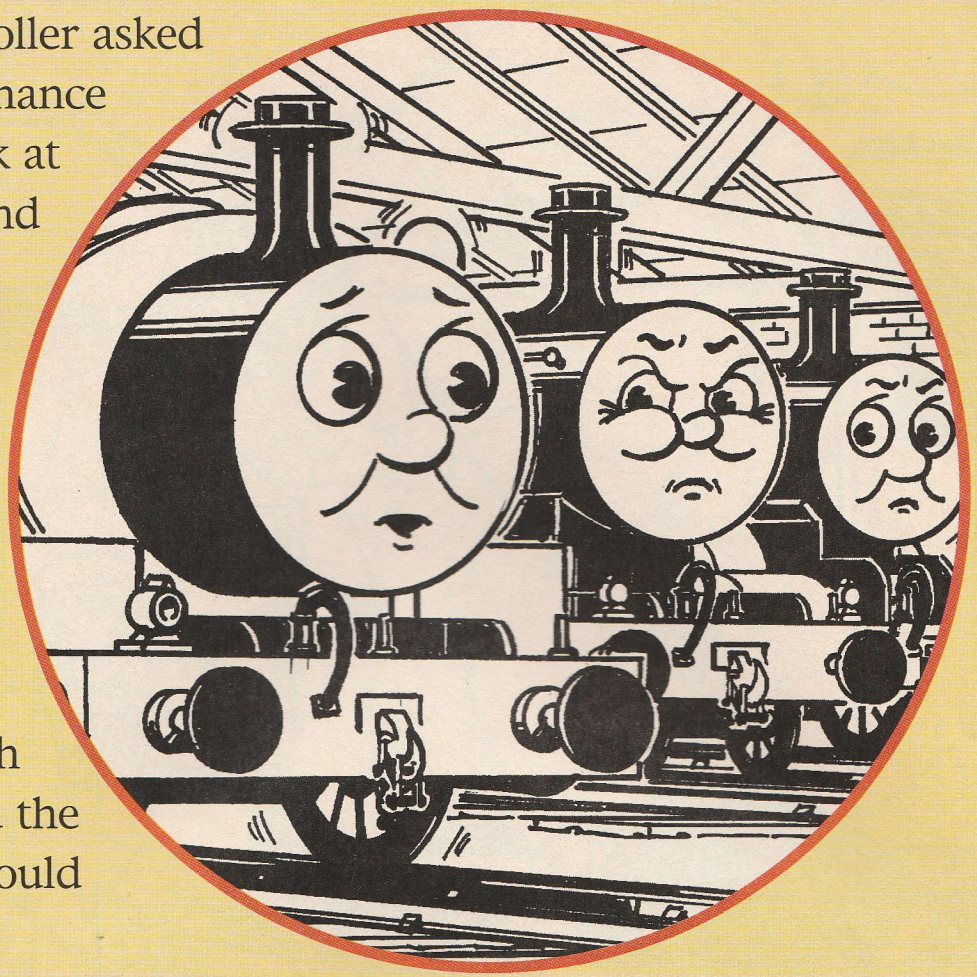
A read & colour story

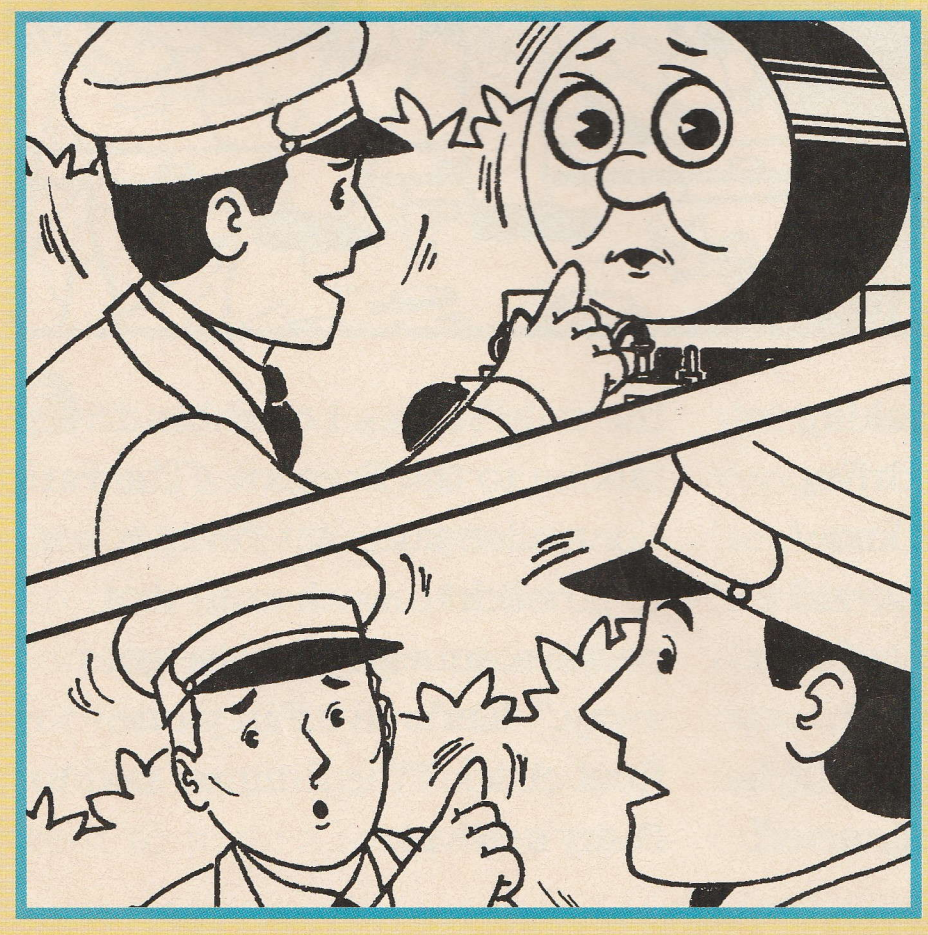
Percy's squeak!



1 Percy the little green engine hardly ever needs repairs. "I'm always ready for work," he says proudly. But one day, as Percy was moving trucks round the railway yard, he heard a peculiar noise. Squeak! Squeak! The trucks laughed at him. "Percy, you sound like a mouse!" "Ha, ha!" Percy was very embarrassed. "Percy, are you all right?" asked Thomas kindly. "Of course I'm all right," said Percy. "I'm sure this squeaking noise will go away soon."

2 The Fat Controller asked the engine maintenance staff to have a look at Percy. "Can you find anything wrong?" he asked. "Not a thing." said the maintenance manager. "We've given Percy some extra oil, and he is as good as new." Squeak! Squeak! Oh dear! Percy wished the squeaking noise would go away!





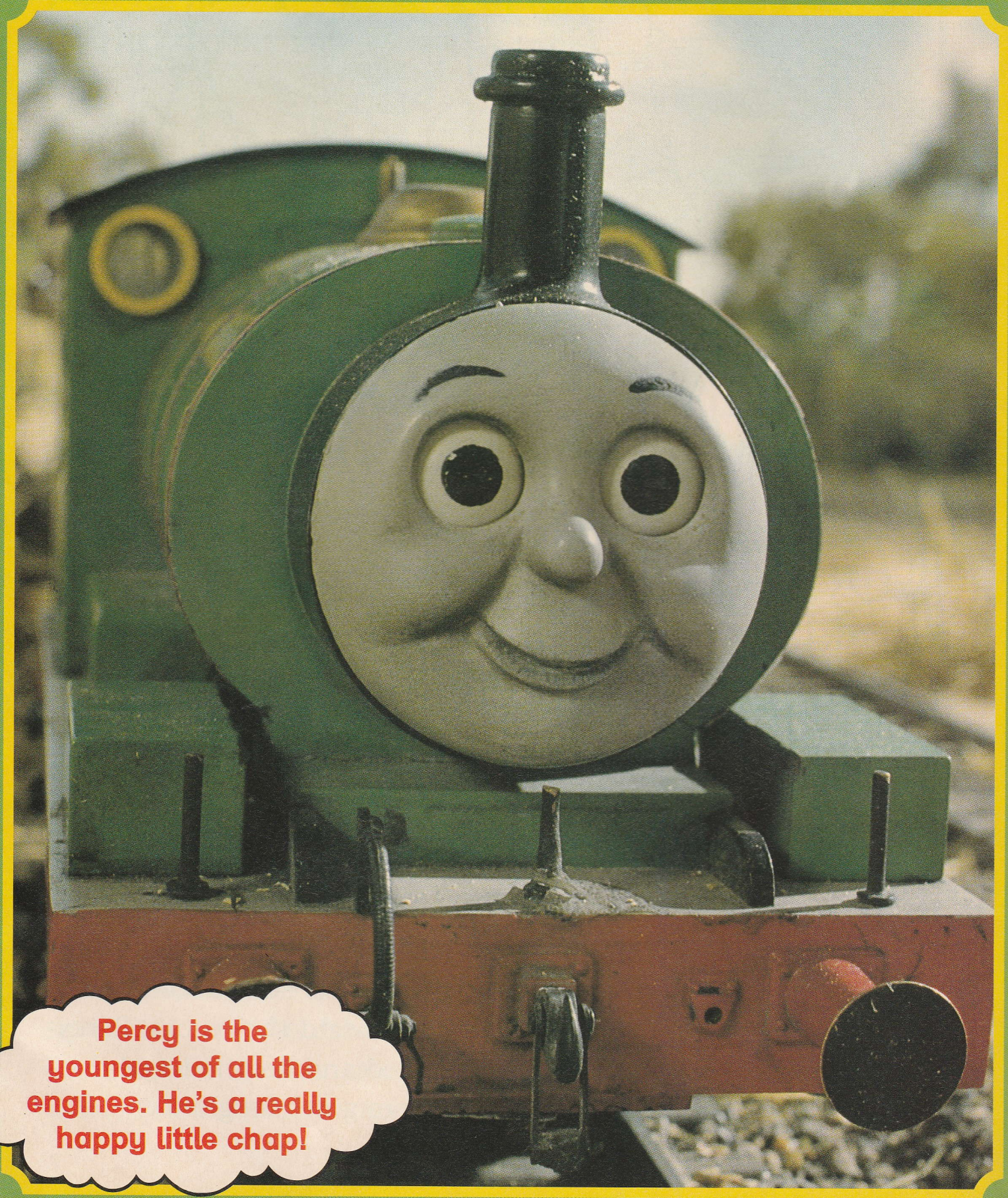
3 That night, Percy and the other engines tried to go to sleep. But Percy's squeaking kept them awake! "Do be quiet, Percy," said Gordon. "I need my rest." "I'm trying," said Percy sleepily. He just started to doze off, when - Squeak! Squeak! The other engines glared at him.

4 Percy was still squeaking in the morning when his driver arrived. "Percy, I don't know what is wrong, but I'm afraid I can't stand another day of that squeaking," said his driver. Percy sighed. "Neither can I," he said. "It's nearly driving me off the rails!" Percy heard his driver talking to the fireman. "The Fat Controller says that Percy is not to go back to work until that peculiar squeaking noise goes away." "Let's give Percy one final check," the fireman said to Percy's driver.

5 The driver and the fireman gave Percy a thorough check. At last, the fireman opened the boiler, and the squeaking suddenly got louder! The fireman started laughing. The driver went to have a look, then he started laughing too. "Look, Percy," said his driver. They held up four tiny mice. SQUEAK! SQUEAK! "We said that you were squeaking like a mouse!" said the trucks. Percy laughed and laughed and the other engines laughed too!

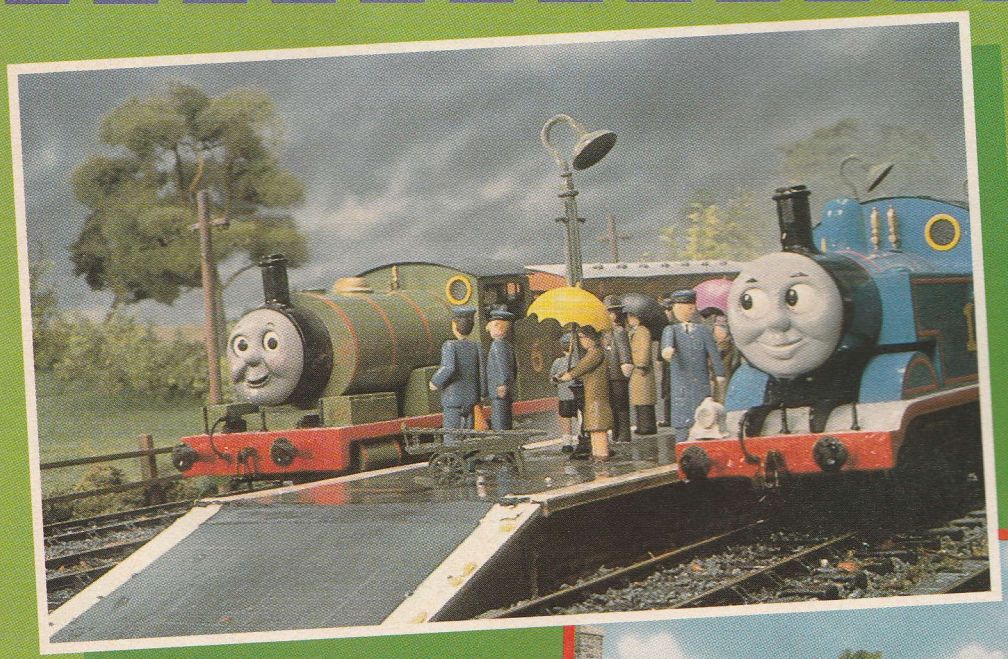
The end

All abou

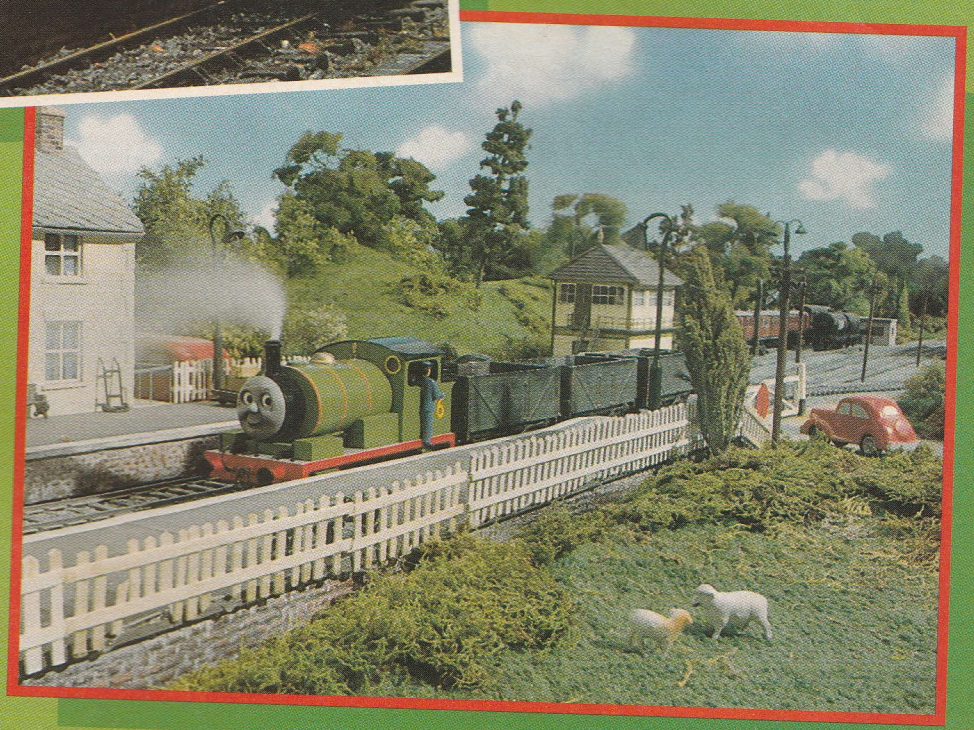


Percy is the youngest of all the engines. He's a really happy little chap!

t Percy!



Percy loves to help whenever he can, but sometimes the other engines get fed up with his teasing!



Percy doesn't like to go on big adventures. He is quite happy puffing around the yard helping the Fat Controller!

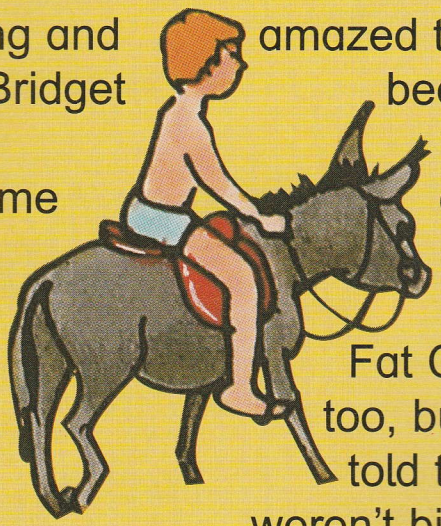
Win a model Percy!

Five lucky winners will win a splendid model Percy from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/Percy model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TZ.

Closing date for entries: June 7th 1996. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Percy!

A day at the beach!

It was a hot weekend in May and everybody wanted to spend the day at the beach, swimming and sunbathing. Stephen and Bridget had come over from the Mainland to spend some time with their grandfather, the Fat Controller. They wanted to go fishing, with the new fishing net the Fat Controller had given them.

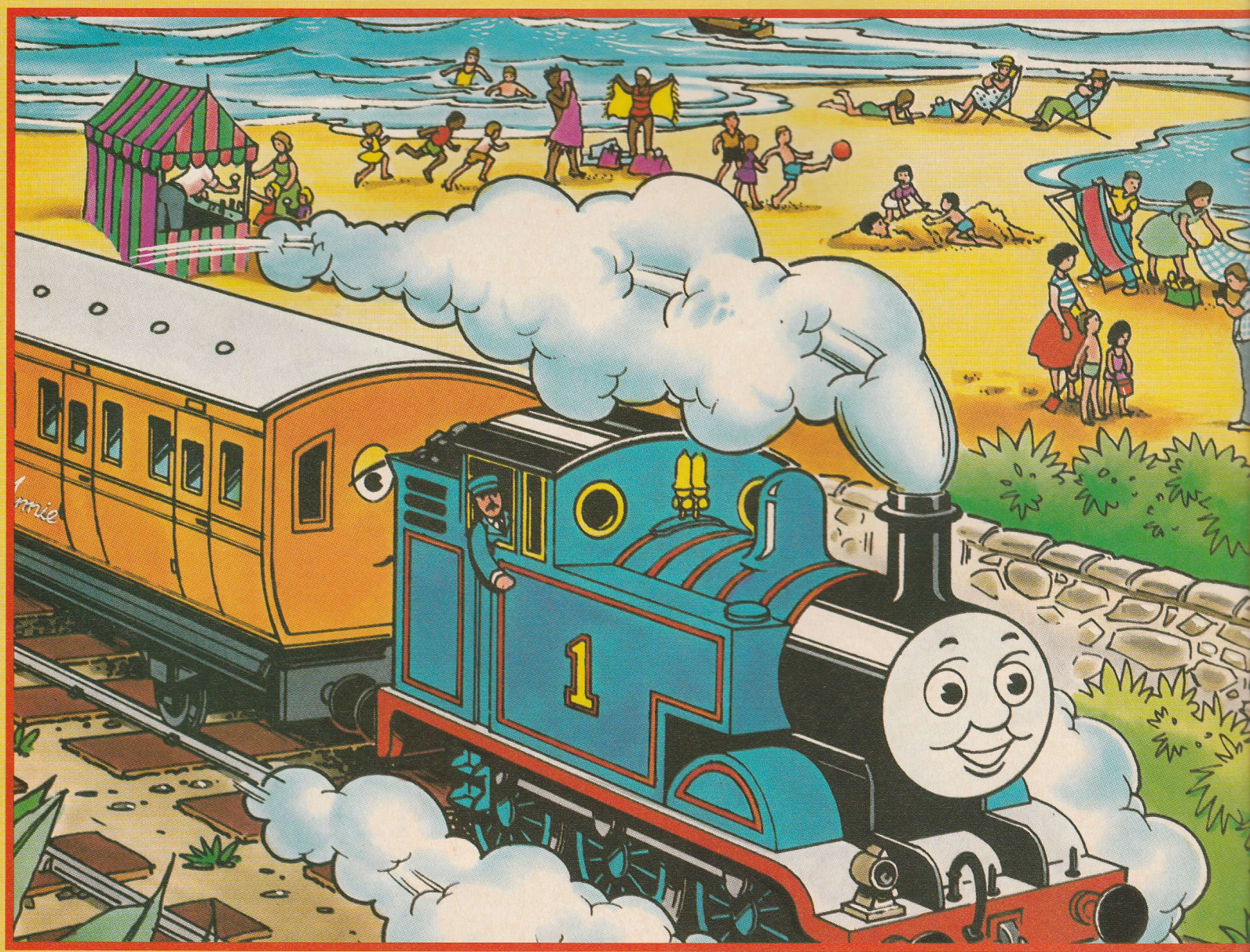


Thomas took the children and the Fat Controller to the seaside. When they arrived Bridget was amazed to see donkeys on the beach.

"Can I have a ride on a donkey?" she asked her grandfather.

Stephen wanted the Fat Controller to have a ride too, but he just laughed and told them that the donkeys weren't big enough to carry him.

Next, they invited another group



of children to play football with them. Bridget scored a goal, which annoyed Stephen because he was the goalkeeper.

"Now, now," said the Fat Controller. "It is no good playing a sport, if you become grumpy when you lose. You should just enjoy the game."

"Yes, you're right. Well done Bridget," Stephen said. "That was a great goal."

After the game they went paddling in the sea. The Fat Controller took off his shoes and socks and rolled up his trousers before following them into the water.

"Brr! The water's freezing!" cried Bridget, running back to shore.

Then they all sat down on the beach to eat some sandwiches that Lady Topham Hatt had prepared for them.

Bridget took a bite of her sandwich and then pulled a face.

"What's wrong?" asked Stephen.

"I've got a *sand* and cheese sandwich," she moaned.

All of the sandwiches were real *sand*wiches, so the Fat Controller treated them to fish and chips instead.

They sat on a rock overlooking the sea and tried to catch some fish with their new fishing net. After a couple of minutes, Stephen began to get bored. "I don't think any fish live near here," he said.

"You have to be patient," said the Fat Controller. "Sometimes you can wait for hours before any fish come near you."

Just then Stephen pulled up the fishing net and gasped when he saw a large crab staring back at him.

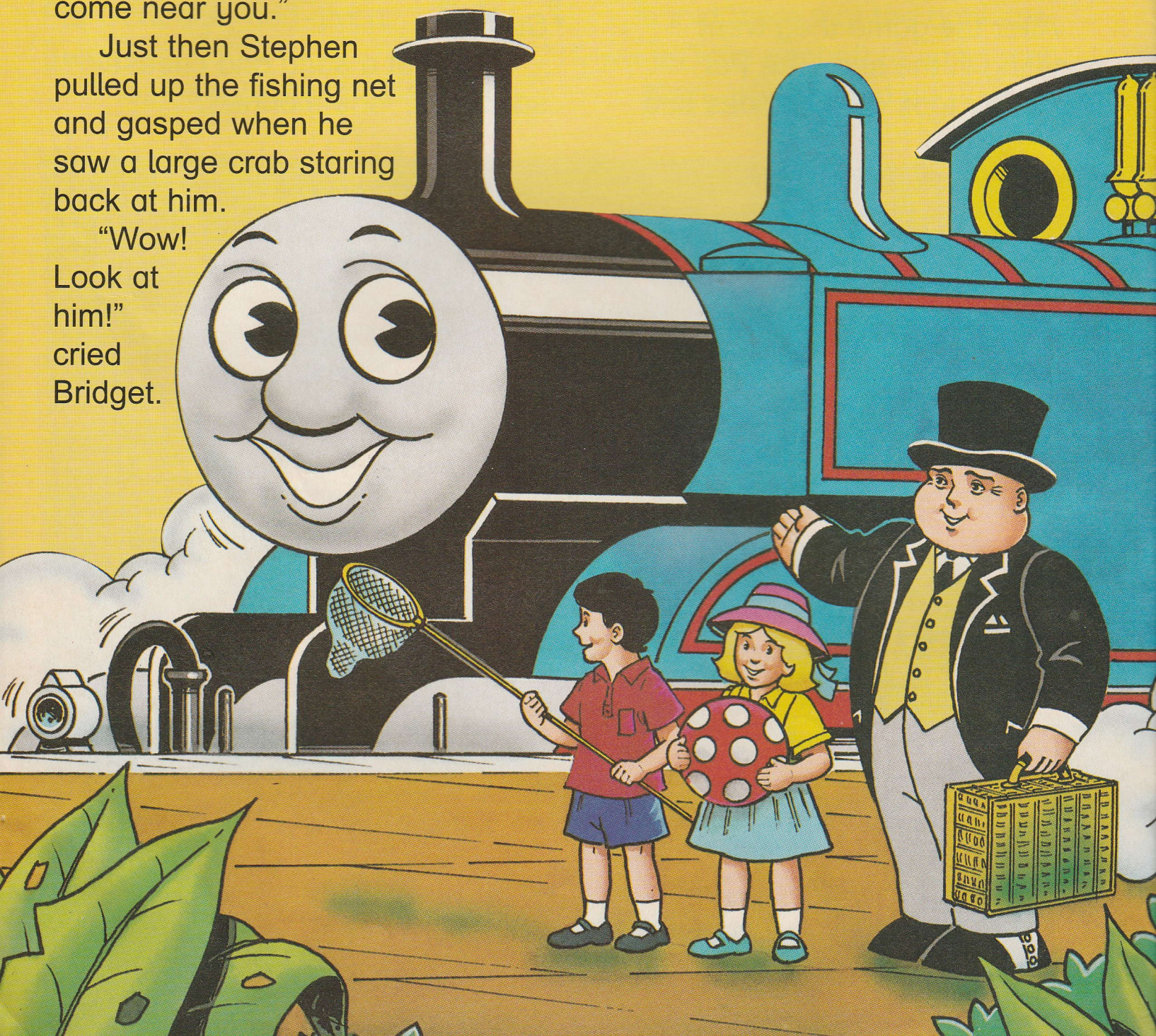
"Wow! Look at him!" cried Bridget.

They looked at the crab, and the crab looked at them for a while, before climbing out of the net and hopping back into the sea.

At last they went back to the station and waited for Thomas to collect them.

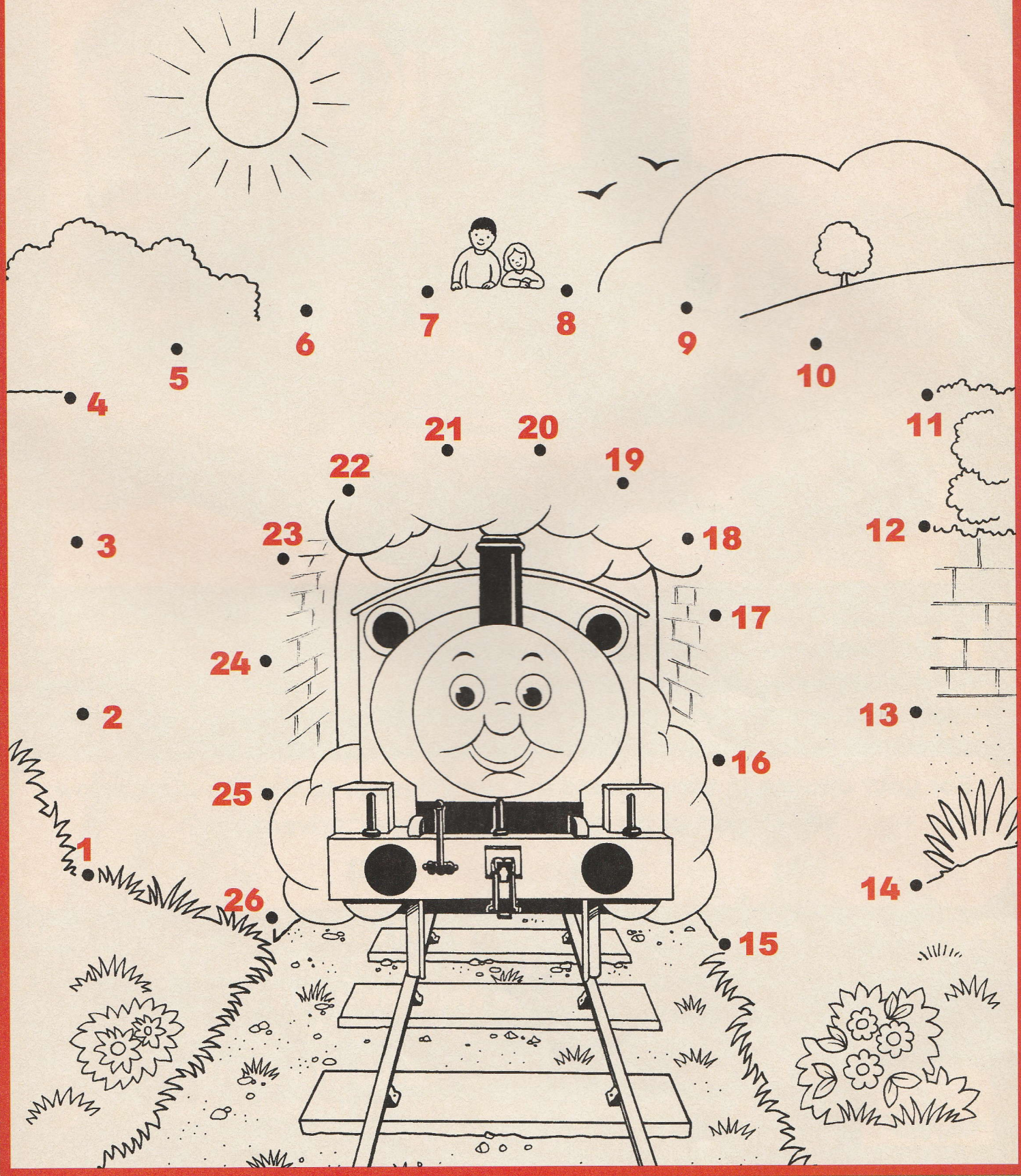
"Fishing is good fun, really," said Stephen. "We must be very good because it only took us a few minutes to catch something!"

The end



Dot to dot!

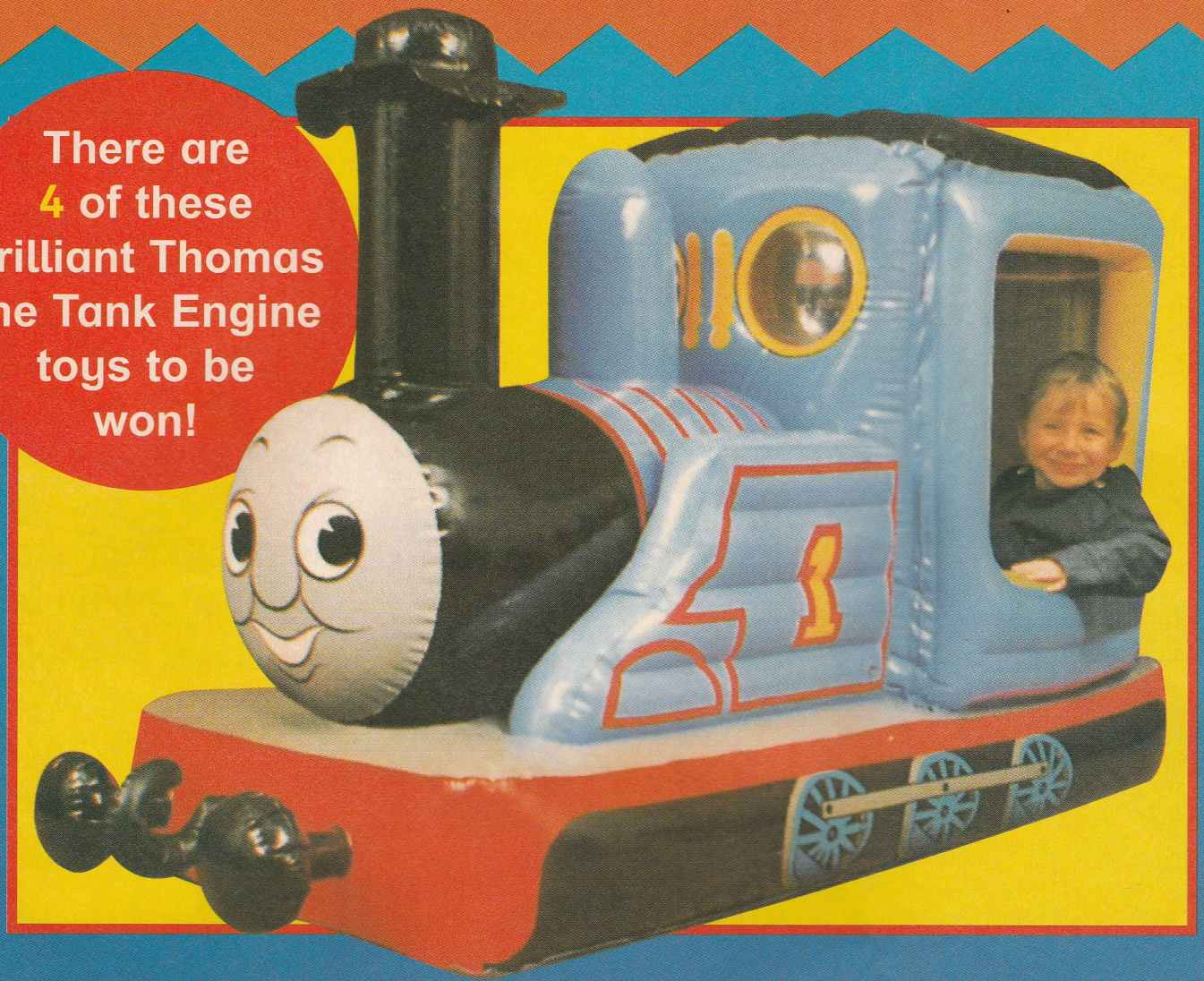
Where is Percy? Join the dots and see!



When you have finished colour this page!

Inflatable fun!

There are 4 of these brilliant Thomas the Tank Engine toys to be won!



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How would you like to be Thomas's driver? With an inflatable Thomas you can go on a journey with your favourite engine every day. Just blow him up and jump aboard! You can play with him inside or outside. Because he's made of thick PVC he won't burst!

For your chance to win, choose the right answer to the question below:
Which part of the train does Thomas' driver sit in?

A) The roof B) The buffer C) The cab

Send your answer, along with your name and address, to: Inflatable Fun!, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5TZ

Make sure your entry arrives before the 21st of June!

Air Fun would like to make a special offer of £15.00 off to all Thomas readers when they order an inflatable Thomas toy!
For details phone: 01633 272 424

Rules: This competition is open to all readers and their families except employees of participating companies and their families. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence wil be entered into.

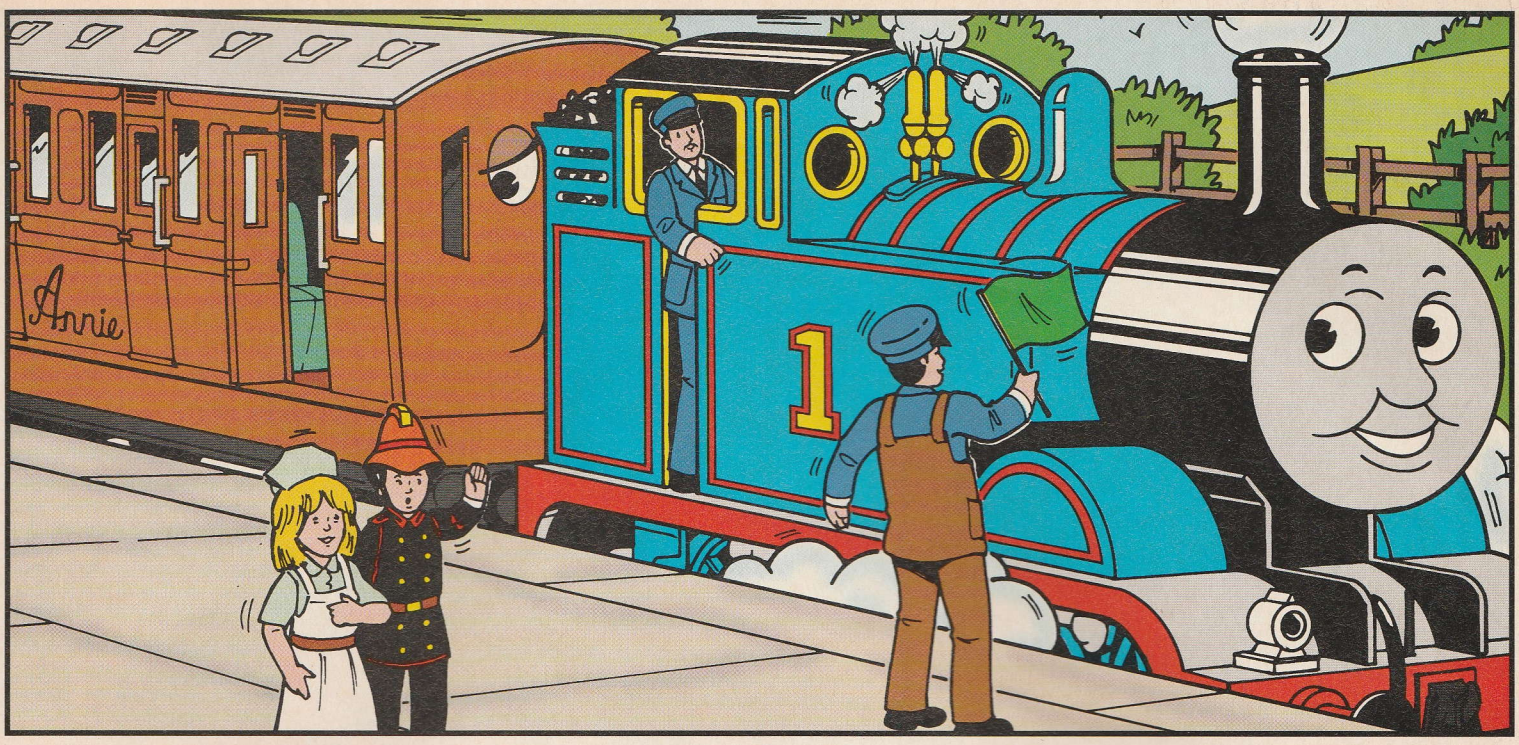
Puzzle time!

Can you guess which engine this is? Carefully cut around the jumbled pieces and fit them together to make a springtime scene!

Play time!

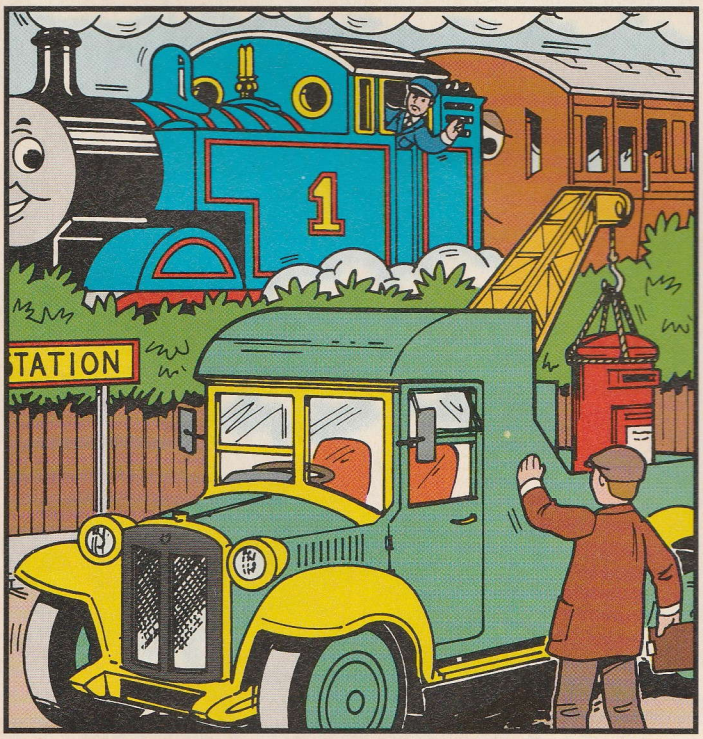
1. Stephen and Bridget, the Fat Controller's grandchildren, had come to stay on the Island of Sodor. One afternoon, Thomas was to take them to the station near the church hall.

2. The children were going to appear in the vicar's play. As Thomas stood at the Main Station, he whistled loudly to tell them he was waiting. "Peep! Peep! Hurry up!" he called.



3. They were already on the platform, but Thomas did not recognise them because they were both wearing costumes for the play. "Oh! Thomas made us jump!" laughed Bridget.

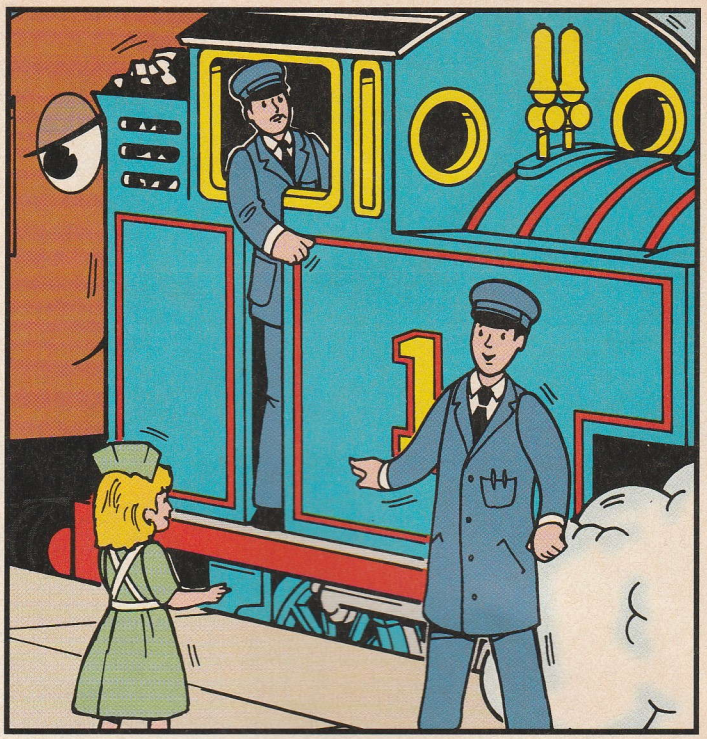
4. She was dressed as a nurse and Stephen was a fireman. "You both look very smart," Thomas' driver told them. "It's for today's rehearsal at the church hall," replied Stephen.



5. When Thomas arrived at the nearby station, a lorry stood outside. The driver had to unload a new pillar-box. "It's for your passengers to use," he called to Thomas' driver.

6. Then the vicar arrived to meet Stephen and Bridget. "This is a busy station so people often want to post letters before they catch the train," he said, pointing to the pillar-box.

7. Soon Stephen and Bridget waved goodbye to Thomas. "We'll be back to pick you up with the five o'clock passenger train," said his driver. Thomas puffed on his way up the line.



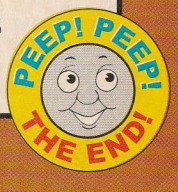
8. Next moment, Thomas spotted a pillar-box on the platform, outside the waiting room. "Smoke and fire!" he gasped. "That's a strange place for the lorry driver to leave it!"

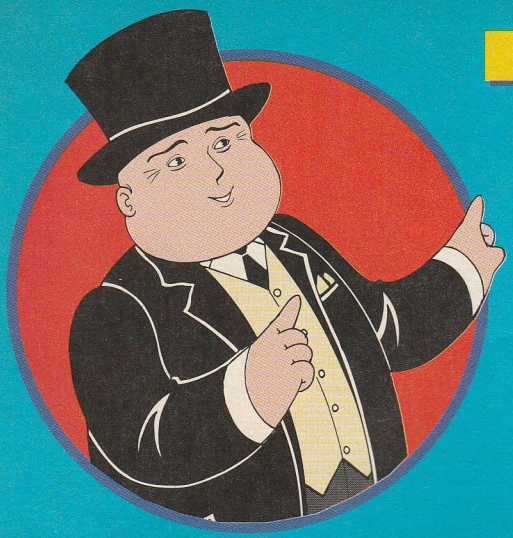
9 . "Where's Stephen?" Thomas' driver asked Bridget. "Over here!" a voice called. Thomas could not see anyone else. Suddenly, he stared in amazement as the pillar-box moved.

10. Thomas' eyes grew wide with surprise as it began to walk slowly towards him. "Hello, Thomas!" it said. "Will you carry me, too? Or must I wait for the post train?"

11. Thomas thought he was imagining things. “A walking, talking pillar-box!” he cried. Then Bridget pulled the lid off it. The pillar-box was not a real one. Stephen was inside. “It was our turn to give Thomas a surprise!” the children laughed. “The real pillar-box is outside the entrance to the station,” Bridget told Thomas’ driver. “You can’t see it from here!”

12. “The vicar said he had made changes to the play and didn’t need me to be a fireman any more,” Stephen explained. “I agreed to be a pillar-box and wear this costume instead. It’s a comedy play!” Now Thomas began to laugh. “Well, wouldn’t it be nice if all pillar-boxes could be as cheerful and chatty as you!” he said.





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Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TZ.

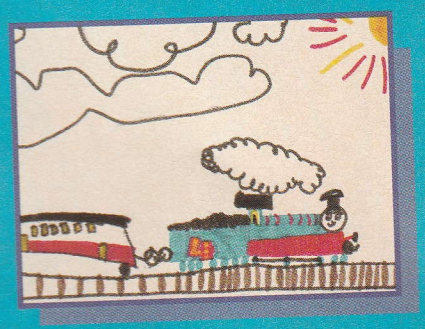
Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
During the holidays I go to see my grandma who lives by the seaside. Where do you go on holiday?
Love from Ethan Hill, aged 6.

Sodor is such a lovely island that when I get time off from my busy schedule I just like to go for a walk, or have a picnic on one of the beaches.

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

Thomas looks like he is enjoying the sunshine in this picture by Alistair Vorster.



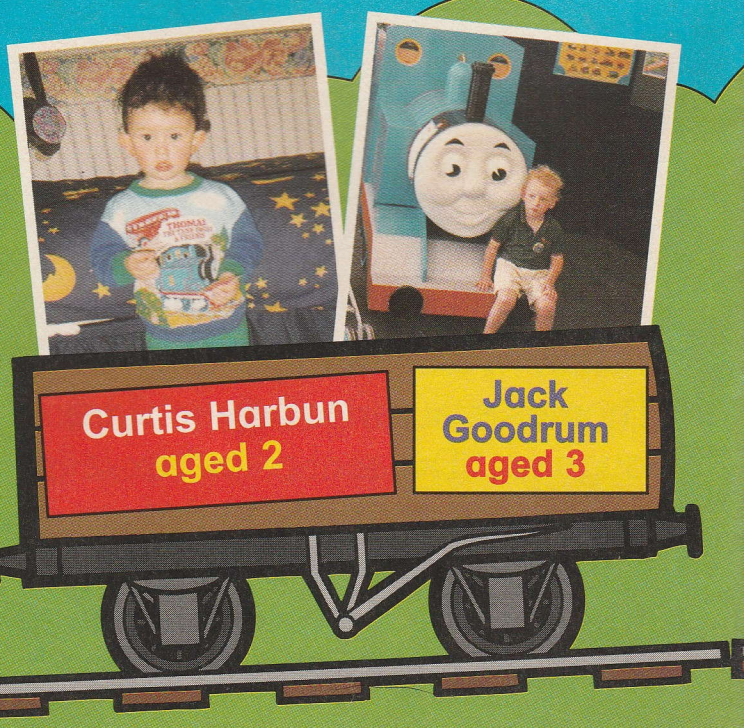
Prize Poem!

Here's a ditty all about Percy by
Torres Rawlinson, aged 4

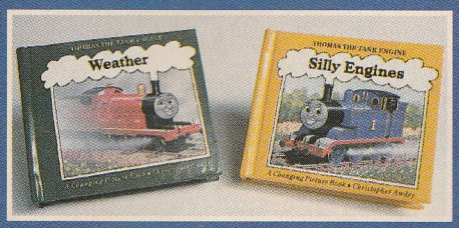
Cheeky little Percy,
Steaming up the track,
No sooner has he got there,
Then he comes steaming back!

Happy Birthday

To . . . Jasmine Wilson
Mica Barrington Smith
Shirley Keenan
Matthew Flowers



ail train!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

I look really proud of my engines in this brilliant drawing by **Arthur Scriven, aged 5.**

I don't think James' red paint has ever looked as lovely as it does in this picture by **Lucy Atkins, aged 4.**

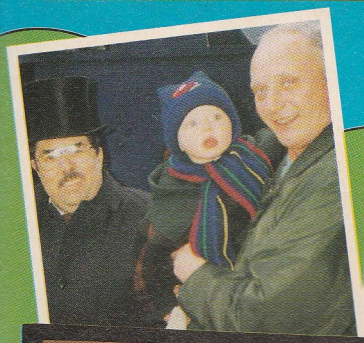
Percy's Jokes

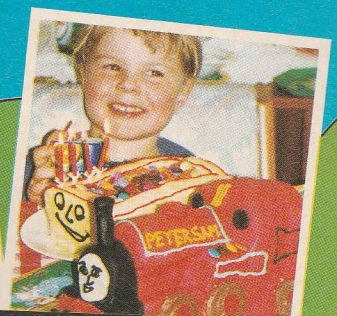
Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

What is round, white and giggles?
A tickled onion!
Karen Brown, aged 2

What goes tick tock woof?
A watch dog!
Andrew Fitzsimon, aged 8

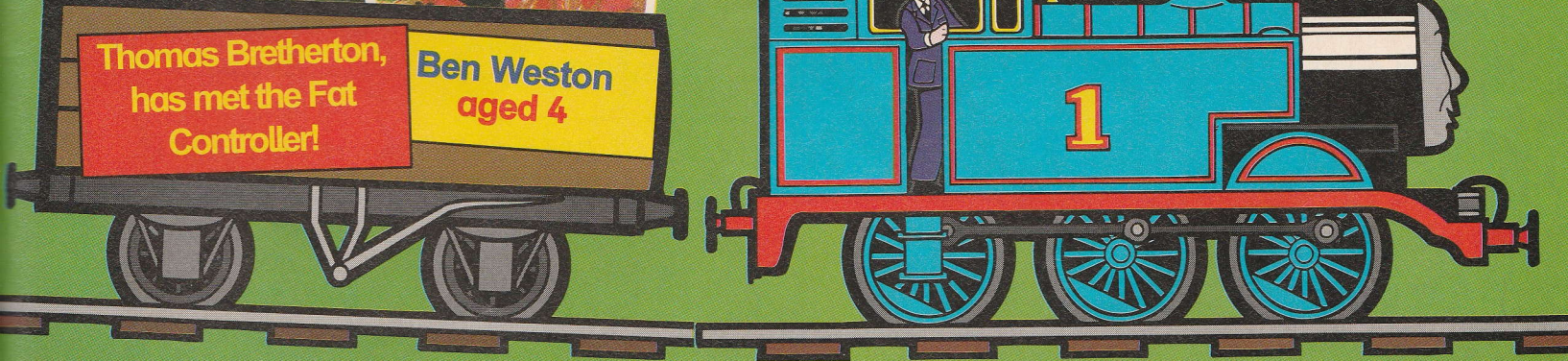
How can you tell which end of the worm is the head?
Tickle it in the middle and see which end giggles!
Kezia Pearce, aged 6





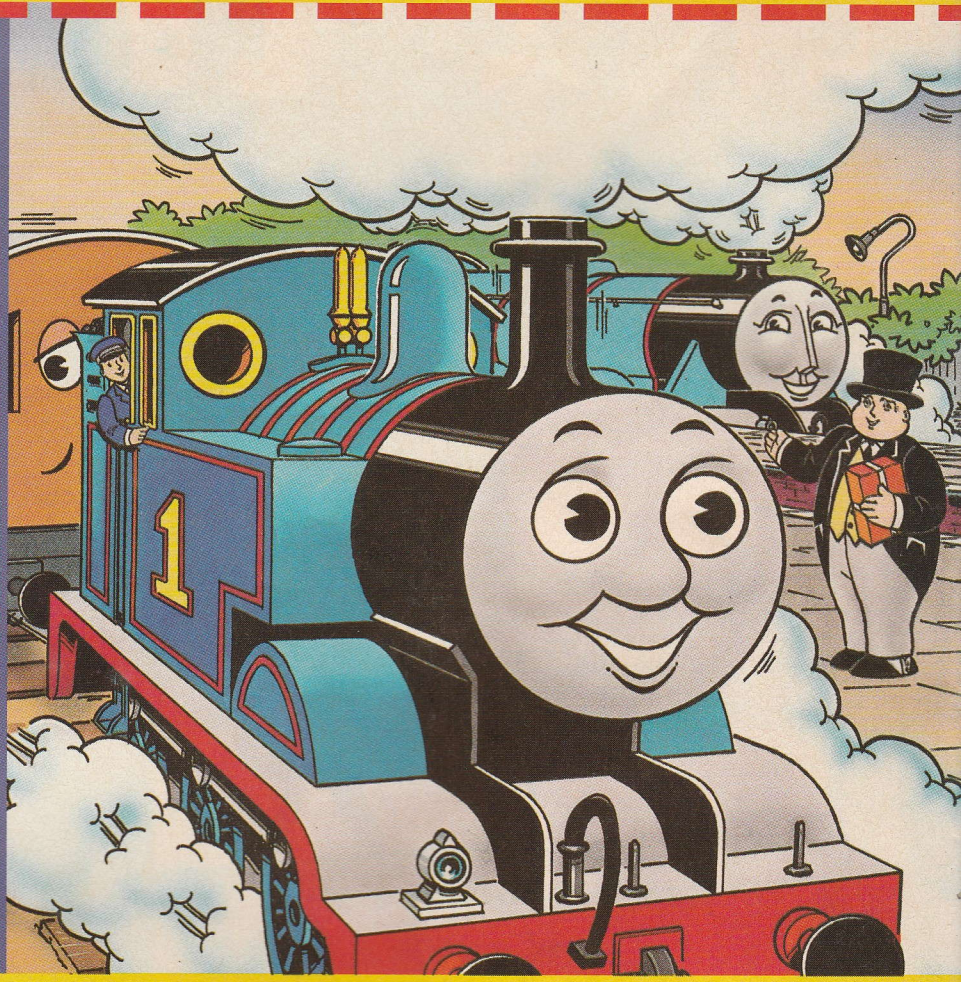
Thomas Bretherton, has met the Fat Controller!

Ben Weston aged 4



Great news for Thomas fans!

The Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Club has just been set up. New members are sent a starter pack which includes an activity book, badges, stickers and a super surprise gift! Throughout the year, members receive a copy of the Thomas Express and more pages of activities and games. For telephone memberships or more information, call the 24 hour 'Thomas Club Line' on 0541 542542.



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Child's name ..... Address .....

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..... Post code ..... Date of birth.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my Visa/Mastercard or call Credit card hotline on 01858 410510.

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Peep! Peep! Hang on tight for . . .

Issue 226 of

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

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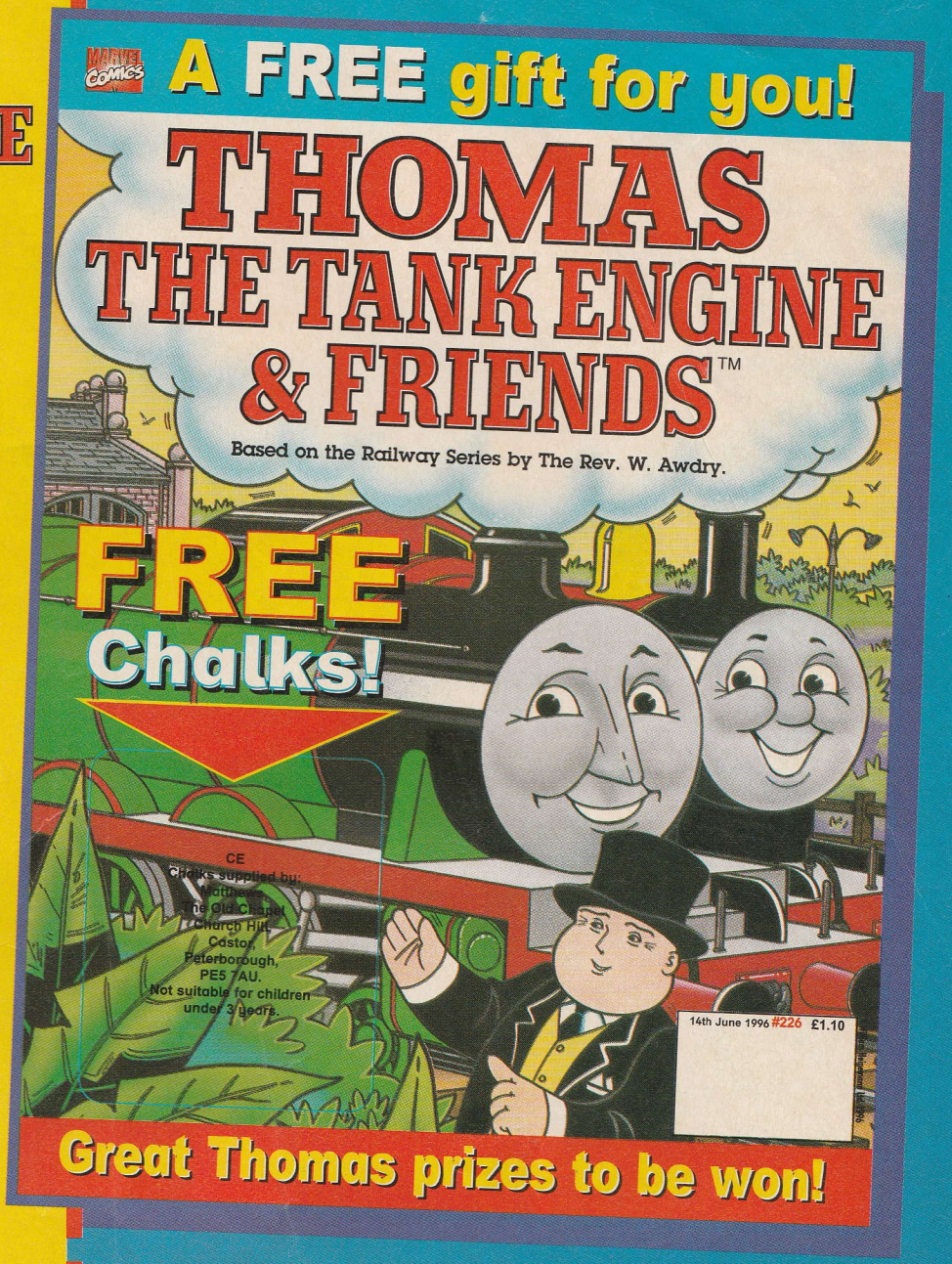
Fun puzzles to do!

Prizes to be won!



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On sale from 1st June 1996!

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